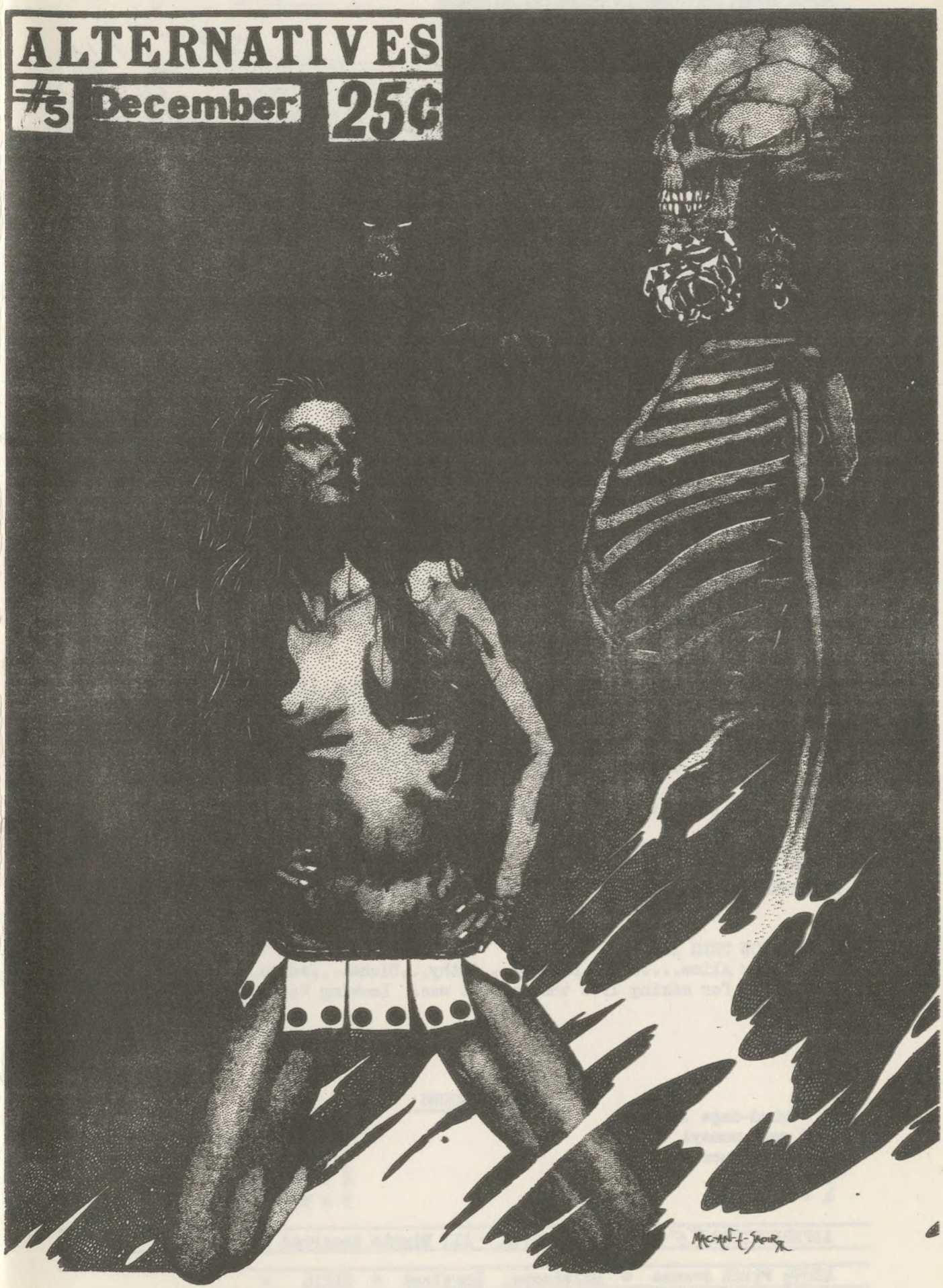
ALTERNATIVES

#5 December 25¢



EDITOR'S CRACKS...

Variations On A Theme,
READ THIS!

As of this issue,I've put forth much more effort. I've been severely criticized for my shallow reviews; they aren't any more. Mention was made concerning the gaps above & below each page; the gaps have been filled in with additional material. All columns are being typeset by hand so the edges of type are even. Envelopes are being used to mail all copies,so nobody should be getting mangled copies anymore. All of these changes are being made for you....I don't really need them!

You'll also notice additional pages this issue. Unless sales warrant it in the future, they won't be permanent. Just a personal X-Mas present from me... to you!

Best,

NOTE: This issue may be sent out free to an additional 4,000 people. If you happen to be one of those people...welcome! Please subscribe.

ALL MATERIAL RECEIVED BY THE 13th OF THE MONTH ARE REVIEWED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE. MATERIAL RECEIVED AFTER THE 13th WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

BACK ISSUES (25¢@): #2,3,4 SUBSCRIPTIONS: #6-9: $1.00 OVERSEAS: $2.50

EDITOR// Rickey L. Shanklin ASSOCIATE EDITOR// Arthur Phillips
COVER// Robert Macintyre
REVIEWERS// Adamson, Barson, Chaney, Oppenheimer, Pumpkin, Phillips, Shea, Shanklin.

DEDICATION THIS ISSUE...
to Mary Alice...Judy...Barbara...Cathy...Diana...Jackie...and, especially, Jilly...for making 1972 the year it was! Looking forward to 1973.....

RATING CODES

0 * bird-cage liner!
1 * your money!
2 * very poor
3 * poor
4 * fair
5 * good
6 * very good
7 * fine
8 * excellent
9 * buy it now

ALTERNATIVES # 5 * DECEMBER * 1972 * All Rights Reserved *

4205½ Pitch Avenue * Baltimore, Maryland * 21236 *

Fanzines...

2-THE ANYTHING THING * #3 * 25¢ or 3 8¢ stamps; or in trade for letters, contributions, or other zines * mimeo * 17 pages * anything zine * xeroxed cover * stapled once in upper left corner * Frank Balazs, Croton-On-Hudson, New York, 10520 * mailed folded and stapled *

Surprisingly(?) this issue of AT is an improvement over last issue...in some respects. The cover hardly merits comment, so I won't. The overall layout is about par with most neo-fan mimeozines. The quality of the printing is not too hot, nor is the art. (Is that what they call it?)

The first three pages are used for editorials and a "why you got this". The next two present a story,"Collector",which seems out of place because it isn't that bad. Three pages of letters, and a "humor" (and I use that word with much reservation) page precede three pages of decent comments on SF mags.

A poem, and three pages of "reviews" finish the issue.

The editors still persist in rambling on about their personal lives, often to the point of boredom. I should hope they'll be over this syndrome before too long...before it's too late!

Better than last issue, but still a long way to go...

/Richard Adamson

5-BUGBAER * #1 * 7/$1 * offset * 8 pages * bi-weekly? * strip zine *Bugbaer,2403 Telegraph, St. Louis, Missouri, 63125 * mailed folded and stapled *

This is another of those "strange" little publications that pop up, last a few issues, and fold...unfortunately ! For the price, it's a good buy. The strips are light, and easy to read. The art is not fantastic, but it goes with each of the story-lines rather well.

"Cromwell And Moonwolf", by Larry Nolte,rings of Walt Kelly's Pogo, with no plagiaristic overtones. It shows promise, in the J.R.R. Tolkien tradition.

"Prologue" (that can't be the title!), by Paul Daly, involves life in the year 2267, after the planet-war of 1987. There is a shortage of many commodities, among them food...clothing.....and women.

Two humor strips, "Fungk Monotnias" and "Night-Spawn", struck me as being rather funny, particularly the latter, but it's a matter of taste.

The only real fault of Bugbaer lies in the continuation of the first two strips. If they do publish bi-weekly...great! If they don't, they shouldn't start something they won't finish. (And I doubt that Bugbaer will remain bi-weekly since I havn't received #2 yet...and it's been over a month!)

/Rickey L. Shanklin

7-THE BURROUGHS NEWSBEAT * #12 * 12/ $3 or 25¢ @ * offset * 6 pages * monthly * ERB zine * Kevin B. Hancer, 7710 Penn Avenue South, #206, Richfield, Minnesota 55423 * stapled in upper left corner * mailed folded in an envelope *

TBN manages, with surprising consistency, to reveal all sorts of current tidbits on Burroughs' characters. The "News Flashes" section invariably lets the Burroughsphile in on scores of ERB trivia.

Two rare stills begin the issue. The first is of Elmo Lincoln, the first adult Tarzan; the second is a group shot of Eugene Burr, P. Dempsey Tabler, and Karla Schramm. The reproduction on these is poor, because Kevin didn't have them halftoned, but visible nonetheless.

Among the several well-done reviews are the following items: The English Tarzan Superadventure Comic, Tarzan Of The Apes by Hogarth, and a few ERB related zines.

The Frazetta covers of the Ace reissues of Burroughs paperbacks appear on page 3. Again, the pictures were not halftoned beforehand, and are not very clear due to that. You can still get a sneak preview, though.

The Burroughs Newsbeat is always worth an ERB fan's money.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

1-CELESTIAL SHADOWS * (formerly THUMB BULLETIN) #9 * ditto * loc/trade/contribution/25¢ * stapled at left edge * 32pages * infrequent * fannish zine * Tim C. Marion, 614-72nd Street, Newport News, Virginia, 23605 * mailed flat in an envelope *

ake bad artwork, poor spelling, ego-freak writers, lousy printing,and what do you get? (If you can't guess,quit reading this and go do wrist exercises in the corner.) Yes, Celestial Shadows is a lemon among citruses. I mean, you can't really expect a zine that carries a report on Disneyland,and reprints of fanzine reviews to be outstanding...can you?

If you thought artists were the only ones who could swipe, be sure to read the fiction in this zine...

Say...if you had an interview with someone, wouldn't you expect him to say something? Not if you worked for Celestial Shadows you wouldn't! In an article on Kelly Freas, only two paragraphs take place around him. Well, if you go for egoboo, that's the type of stuff you write.

To top it all off, here's another zine editor who thinks mimeo/ditto is God's gift to printing. You know, why use offset when you can use mimeo?!?!

Wise up!

/Arthur Phillips

7-ETERNITY * #1 * $1 * offset * quarterly * S-F zine * 39 pages * saddle-stitched * Stephen Gregg, PO Box 193, Sandy Springs, South Carolina,29677 * mailed flat in an envelope *

Better than average fanzine...

1.) LAYOUT: good quality paper (a frequently overlooked point);good layout and page balance;artwork is basically good and, in places, even excellent; good offset printing job;generally well-done for a first issue; chief problem is with the material.

2.) MATERIAL: a) Editorial--typical fanzine editorial.
b) The Mummy (poem)—you have to hope the author didn't devote too much time to this.
c) Final Solution(novelet)—not really as bad as I expected from the beginning—on the other hand....
d) Book Reviews—I question if a fanzine should bother to use 2 full pages to review a single book/other review pieces are good.
e) Dust (poem)—I liked it!
f) Genii (cartoons)—by Jack Gaughan; same comment as (b) above.
g) Report Of The Defense—well-done; a good piece of work, but possibly out of place in this mag.
h) Morning With Music (poem)—by Roger Zelazny; good!
i) The Seventh Floor (story)—thematic overkill...six pages to overdevelop a point not worth making.
j) Notes Made Late At Night By A Weary SF Writer (article)—by Philip K. Dick; trite, but predictably.
k) The Celluloid Universe (article)—well-written!
l) The Comix (article)—by Denny O'Neil; mediocre article; lousy editorial.
m) Perchance To Wake—pretty good; appropriate length and not badly written.
n) Punchcap(cartoon)—good drawing ability wasted on a horseshit idea.
o) Darling, When You Hurt Me (story)—a motley conglomerate of Ellison/Silverburg; not even good pornography.
p) Roaches (reviews)—title is best feature, but comments appropriate and kept brief, which is good idea.
q) Experience Necessary (poem)—author shouldn't have bothered; material sufficient for one good short poem covers an entire page.

3.) GENERAL COMMENTS: Eternity magazine is better than the average fanzine. It is well-structured, laid out well, and avoids the usual tendency to editorialize on every page. The offset print job is good and the artwork is exceptional by amateur standards. Chief shortcoming of the magazine is the ma-

terial, and even here Eternity rates above average. There is enough decent stuff here to make it worth reading, which is more than can be said for the average fanzine. Whether or not it is worth $1 per issue depends on how much a dollar is worth to you; I've spent more for less. With some better stories and less crappy poetry, this would be a good effort. I look forward to the next issue.

/David Shea

7-FANDOM UNLIMITED * #1 * $1 * offset * irregular * 40 pages * saddle-stitched * *anything but strip zine * Randall D. Larson, 774 Vista Grande Avenue, Los Altos, California, 94022 * mailed flat in an envelope *

For a buck, this is a pretty big package. Unfortunately, a few of the items are dated, this being a 1971 issue. (I just received it for review.)

Most of the scattered illustrations are rather passe', but several of the artists stand out: Alan Hanley, Mario Navarro and Steven Utley. The inside cover, by D. Bruce Berry, is undoubtedly the best, though. I like!

An editorial editorial begins the ish, reading more like an editorial than a "what happened on the way to the printer" anecdote. Following this is a short, but informative, interview with Robert Bloch concerning "PSYCHO".

Several unremarkable articles on Atlas, Marvel, Savage Tales, D.C. and Wonder Woman do little to brighten the issue, but provide reading material. Several small ads, fanzine reviews and poems appear throughout the contents, also.

A portfolio of Christopher Juricich's art appears, but is hardly worth commenting on. Not bad...just another ho-hum spot illustration artists.

Reprinted from a newspaper article is a piece on Mike Friedrich which is a nice bit of reading. Reprinted from TWA Ambassador Magazine is a two-page article on Ray Bradbury, with a Steve Fabian illo. This is another strong point of Fandom Unlimited #1.

A 4-page interview with the late, unlamented Freddy Wertham, M.D. & C.K. (Comic Killer) pops up near the end. Interesting reading, even if he is about as popular as James Warren!

Another "History Of The Comics", this one by Shel Dorf, appears. Also, an E.C. review and an article on war comics.

A curious analysis of Fanzines starts on page 34, and makes a few interesting points.

There's still more! A SF story by Randall D. Larson was all right, but needed a little more work, and a "Duffy"s Tavern" brings to mind one question..... "Why?" In two pages, Duffy Vohland managed to say virtually nothing, but did manage to have a beneficial effect on my acute insomnia!

All in all, this zine isn't too bad. It has its weak points, but its strong points outweigh these considerably.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

8-GORE CREATURES * #21 * 50¢ * offset * 32pages * twice annually * horror/supernatural/mystery movie zine * stapled at edge * Gary J. Svehla, 5906 Kavon Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21206 * mailed flat in an envelope *

If you're into horror...fantasy...monsters...mystery..or anything in a related genre, this is your meat! Gary publishes every six months, or thereabouts, the interim being spent on typing, layout, and scheduling. So you know it can't be half bad.

Although art is not the primary feature of GC, the work of Nelson, Farrill and Karchin cannot go unmentioned. Their work, to my knowledge, does not appear all over fandom. It's a shame, too, because they're damn good!

Among the excellent articles which are featured within, I was particularly elated to find a lengthy, and superbly well-done, article on the Jack The Ripper of the screen. It goes into the background, cast, credits, story, and filmography of each of the many pictures based on Saucy Jack...and it even features a film bibliography! I am a J-T-R collector, and have been hunting meticulously for bits of information on same. This article answered a score of them for me.

For you fantasy/horror fans, there's a deep article dealing with the history of the horror film, and a nice article on King Kong (on the Freudian couch.)

I highly recommend this zine, wherever your taste lies.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

9-HERITAGE * #1a * $3.50 * offset/heavy glossy paper * full color cover * irregular * 62 pages * Flash Gordon Zine * Professionally bound * Doug Murray, 524 N. Hamilton Avenue, Lindenhurst, New York, 11757 * mailed in a heavy envelope

To begin this review let me say that,if you haven't bought Heritage yet... you're an ass! You should definitely buy this before it's sold out. The printing quality is superb, faithful to the finest details and linework. Even the paper stock used is exceptional,and the marriage of these factors enhances the material printed herein.

The color cover is by Alex Raymond,with interior illustrations by Reed Crandall, Gray Morrow and many others. Many fanzine editors utilize these one-page illustrations as filler, but not so here. They seem to "belong" to Heritage, and blend quite well with the overall atmosphere.

Two Flash Gordon portfolios serve as appetizers. The first, by Gray Morrow, is much better than the illustrating he's been doing for zines; the second is by Kenneth Smith, but isn't up to his usual standards.

There are three—count 'em!—three strips inside (not female, guys!). Jeff Jones did the first, "Flash Gordon Faces Reality". It is beautiful, and very aptly titled. "Smash Gordon in: A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Mongo", by Frank Brunner, is definitely the best...both graphically and story-wise. And,in looking over this strip,I retract an earlier comment...there is a strip in this strip: at one point the dilectable, vivacious, appetizing DALE ARDEN does her thing...and gets a lot off her chest. The last strip is "Crash Landing", by Mike Kaluta. It's a long-deserved seriocomedy on...what else?...crash landings!

Two lengthy text sections balance the book,with 36 accompanying photos. The reproduction of the photos is the finest I have ever seen. The first text section is a very intricate synopsis/glossary of Flash Gordon in the serials. The second, an interview between Doug Murray, Al Williamson and Buster Crabbe reveals a hell of a lot of first hand info on the inside facts behind Buster's movie career, with photos and information on his forthcoming "Comeback Trail".

A must for everyone!

/Rickey L. Shanklin

8-ID, EGO...AEON * #4 * 25¢ * offset * bi-monthly * strip zine * 4x5 * 24 pages* saddle-stitched * Spectrum Publications, 19 Richwill Road, Apartment 308, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada * mailed flat in an envelope *

There have always been mixed reactions to the Spectrum publications. I've met people who've considered their stuff pure shit...I've met avid fans. In all cases, the "anti" attitudes were from people who caught the early issues. Understandable. These early issues weren't gems, but they've come a long way.

This issue of IEA features a 22-page strip entitled "Vicon Of The Skyriders". I was really pleased with the concept, the story, and the art. Vince's art had a few weak points,but several outstanding panels really gave beauty to the issue. Page 21, in particular, is a masterpiece.

But why talk about it? Go buy it...it's only a quarter!

/Rickey L. Shanklin

5-MEDIA * #1 * 50¢ * offset * 32 pages * quarterly * art/ article zine * saddle-stitched * Theta Publications, 1655 Flatbush Avenue, Apartment A-206, Brooklyn New York, 11210 * mailed flat in an envelope *

A question arises of late concerning small fanzines:"Where does a crudzine end, and a quality zine begin?" One judges a zine as "crud" many times because of its printing, while it may really be worth getting into. Other times a zine is put forth with excellent printing, while hardly being worth the effort of being looked at. So who decides?

The Media is one of those zines that lie in the limbo betwixt the two categories. It doesn't read like a crudzine; nor does it read like a quality zine.

It has some good articles, and others that aren't so good. They run from a New York ComiCon coverage,to movie reviews; from an article on Charlton Comics to articles commenting on the dead Kirbys & The X-Men. They're readable.

The Media also has some fiction, but the emphasis is on the articles.

The art consists majorly of spot illos by a horde of people that aren't that prominent:Capano, Draus, Kurowski, Sakai and Tetreault being a sampling.

There are two sketches by pros Marie Severin & Wayne Howard, but nothing to drool over.

What can I say? It's not a zine to wait with bated breath for, but I don't think that it's not worth getting into. Like I said, it's a limbo zine....and things in limbo mostly transgress to heaven soon enough, right?

/Rod Mark Barson

3-MONOLITH * #2 * 25¢ * offset * irregular * story zine * 8½x5½ * 24pages * saddle-stitched * Dave Mitchell, Room 509, James L. McKinley Residence Hall, Post Office Box 900, Inglewood, California, 90307 * mailed flat stapled *

To begin this review, I've a few gripes. 1.) An intellectual editorial is always welcome, but not when used as a vehicle for political views. After two pages of"man causes,..man can save",the reader is hit with"McGovern can save". Uh-uh, Dave. If you're going to press politics, say so first! 2.) Small print is hard to read, but it's better for the publisher. I use it, too, but I don't let it become black and globby to the point of eye-strain. 3.) The dash(-) is used to connect words into phrases; the double-dash (—) is used to seperate a comment to be interjected into a sentence.

Monolith's spot illoes are okay, but the emphasis here is on the fiction. There are five fiction stories herein, none of which are fantastic. Actually, the only one really worth getting engrossed in is "The Cell-Mind Hungers". I don't mean the stories are bad...they just aren't exceptional pieces of literary alliteration.

A strangely disjointed, and almost useless, column called "What On Earth?" precedes an article introducing the reader to Conan. Ten years ago, it might have "introduced" somebody. Must be a poor jest.

"Chopping Block" (the letters col, of course!), and previews of next issue finish the zine. Thankfully, so did I.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

8-NEW WORLDS TO GAIN * #5 * 75¢ * offset * irregular * strip zine * 24 pages * * saddle-stitched * John D. Lopez, P.O. Box #119, Odem, Texas, 78370 * mailed flat in an envelope *

After a delay of about two years, New Worlds To Gain has come. This issue, #5, is actually the first issue. I won't try to explain that statement. Just take my word for it. There are only 300 copies of this issue, so that might be sufficient inspiration for you to buy it soon.

One wonders where to start with something like NWTG. All things considered, NWTG is a very impressive zine. The art is far better than most all of the other fan art going around, and the story is well-developed, with any existing flaws having escaped my notice. Even the hand-lettering is above par.

Although this zine doesn't specifically state it, the contents are symbolic of the coming technological revolution...a'la Magnus, Robot Fighter. But on a higher plateau...a grand scale!

Everything in the zine, everything, centers around one story. The story depicts the mechanized usurping of a peaceful planet. Robots turned dictators. Against these robots, all actions are futile...until a weapon is found. That weapon comes from the past. That weapon is...the Cowboys! Man must step into the past to save himself from the future he has fabricated.

Sound interesting? It is! And it's not something you'll polish off in 15 minutes. This is a zine with some meat...prime cut!

/Rickey L. Shanklin

9-THE ROBERT BLOCH FANZINE * one-shot * 75¢ * 70 pages * mimeo/w offset covers & insert * stapled at left edge * Randall D. Larson, 774 Vista Grande Avenue,Los Altos, California, 94022 * mailed flat in an envelope *

Robert Bloch fans...rejoice! The Robert Bloch Fanzine is here. If you're into Bob Bloch's work, you couldn't spend a better 75¢.

Robert Bloch, who's he? For those among you who aren't acquainted with Bob Bloch's superb artistry, I shall take a moment to elaborate. Robert Bloch is the literary madman, and master plotter, who wrote (dare I say it?) PSYCHO. It also bears mentioning that he wrote STRAIGHT JACKET, THE SKULL, THE COUCH,TORTURE GARDEN, HOUSE THAT DRIPPED BLOOD, NIGHT WALKER, ASYLUM and the screenplay

for THE DEADLY BEES and MERRY-GO-ROUND by Ray Bradbury. He is also the man behind many episodes of THRILLER,ALFRED HITCHCOCK,BUS STOP, and STAY TUNED FOR TERROR,to name a few. Three STAR TREK scripts are also credited to this giant. He has had over 400 stories published, and his books have been translated into nearly every language on Earth, to name only one planet.

But, lest I digress, permit me to proceed with the review.

I found out about TRBF quite by accident. In my communications with Bob, I attempted to undertake a bibliography of his work,only to find that Randall D. had already begun same. And a marvelous job he has done. The bibliography alone takes up 17 pages, and includes wordage, dates,and reprints of everything Bob has written to the present. Other inclusions are: photos of Robert Bloch & family; articles, poems, information and discussions by and about the inimitable Robert Bloch.

Although I usually detest anyone who attaches the word "fan" to me, I make one exception: Robert Bloch. I am, proudly, a Bob Bloch fan.(He uses me often on warm days.) I am, also, a collector. More specifically, I am "The Man Who Collects Bloch"! (...his casket best have strong locks, lest I add yet another "peace" to my collection.)

Two words, people...BUY IT!

./Rickey L. Shanklin

5-SCORPIA * #7 * 50¢ * offset * 52 pages * semi-whenever * fiction/ art/ article zine * 7x8½ * saddle-stitched * Tim Patterson, RR #1, Box 1550, Bend, Oregon, 97701.* mailed flat in an envelope *

Scorpia #7 is primarily a fiction fanzine, with occasional art. The best stories in it are two moody short stories by Bill Pugmire. In both stories, a quaint atmosphere evokes feelings of terror. "Mephistopheles" deals with a gypsy girl who becomes the prey of a vampire. "The Sea Shell"details a ghost's scheme for revenge that surmounts the obstacle presented by the grave.

"When The Infantry Returns From The Sea",a story by Tim Patterson, also chronicles the machinations of vengeance in an unspecified, prehistoric civilization. The story, although too long,is suspenseful and exciting. "A Barbarian's Luck", by Edwin Newby, is a patently derivative story in which the hero: Draken, a barbarian...resembles Conan, the barbarian. The tale contains few original elements, but it displays an enthusiasm for experimenting with a proven formula.

Three very short stories—"Seeker Of The Truth" by Dave Szurek;"A Lesson In Dying" by Tim Patterson;and"A Mist Of Blood" by Ullrich Stippel—are pointless prose exercises.

"The Greatest Sword And Sorcery Heroes—Part Two", by Edwin Newby,is a cursory summary of heroic fantasy.

Scorpia 7 is completed by several miscellaneous columns and a competant review of "The Steranko History Of The Comics" volume II, by Edwin Newby.

(would you believe this isn't a pseudonym?...ed.) /The Scarlet Pumpkin

5-SON OF GRAFAN * #20 * 25¢/ news/loc/trade * 14 pages * mimeo * monthly * news/ local fan zine * stapled in upper left corner * Son Of Grafan, 8764 New Hampshire, St. Louis, Missouri, 63123 * mailed folded and stapled *

With this issue, a considerable improvement can be noticed. The local news has diminished somewhat, more attention being paid to a nationwide audience.

Movie, book, and zine reviews take up a portion of the issue,the rest being letters (good letters), news bits and discussions.

Judging from the preview of what's coming, I would advise subscribing. In the next issue,an article called "Critique Of Pure Green" begins. It is an analysis of the comic publishing industry. Every writer and artist within the graphic arts media is discussed, dismissed, or praised. The final page count of the article may be over 100! #21 (26 pages)-50¢

/Rickey L. Shanklin

6-SPACE & TIME * #15 and #16 * 50¢ each * offset * quarterly * 5½x8½ * 40 pages each * Gordon Linzer, 83-10 118th Street, Apartment 4-M, Kew Gardens, New York 11415 * mailed flat in an envelope *

S&T is a mixed-bag fannish zine featuring stories, articles, reviews of

books and other zines, strips, and letters.

Stories, like "The Root" by Douglas Derek Roome and "Twilight Games" by Daniel Dickson show flashes in spots but don't hold together so well, like many of the mediocre stories that appear in AMAZING and FANTASTIC.

My favorite items were the very small articles by Robert Weinberg (editor of PULP).

Although this zine's contents are uneven, there's something to please everyone...but everything will not please everyone.

/Israel Oppenheimer

5-THE SPECTRUM * #6 * 25¢ * offset * bi-monthly * strip zine * 16 pages * 4x5 * saddle stirched * Spectrum Publications, 19 Richwill Road, Apartment 308, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada * mailed flat in an envelope *

Of the three strips in this issue, I found only one to be really good. One of the three is a very strange private-eye satire, the other a pseudo-super hero adventure. Art Cooper handled the art on both, but he just cannot carry a strip that well yet. He's excellent on single illustrations.

The best strip is, unfortunately, only two pages long. Drawn by Vince Marchesano, and created by the Captain George Henderson, it involves a holy-hero called Zoltan, The Destroyer. Interesting, to say the least.

Not up to the usual standards, but worth getting for continuity's sake.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

7-STAN'S WEEKLY EXPRESS * #86-87 & 88-89 & 90 * 4/$1 * adzine * 26 pages *mimeo* * weekly * unstapled * Stan's Weekly Express, PO Box #847, Bellaire, Texas, 77401 * mailed folded and stapled *

After nearly an eternity of non-existence, WE lives again! Stan & Mrs. Stan have moved twice during this period, and Stan is still recovering from a serious stroke which brought on partial paralysis. For these reasons, I ask you to forgive them their delay. Because of Stan's previous service to fandom, I ask that you support WE.

Stan's Weekly Express does not attempt to reach any degree of quality. It is cheaply, quickly, and efficiently printed so as to reach subscribers with a minimum of delay. Stan tries very hard to help the underdog, and gives the little fans & collectors a chance. The ads are mostly by small dealers, and all are typed by Stan. None are fancier than the next; no fancy artwork; no hand lettering.

Stan is only accepting a limited number of subscribers, and his quota has almost been reached. Try it now...before it's too late.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

6-THM * #1 * 25¢ * offset * 20 pages * quarterly? * strip/ story/ article zine * * saddle-stitched * 8½x5½ * THM Projects, Inc., 5343 Virginia, Apartment #23 , Los Angeles, California, 90029 * mailed flat in an envelope *

This zine is a welcome break from the pseudo-authoratative 25¢ trivia zines which are spreading like flies on shit. It has a bit of light reading, some strips, and a few funny re-worked comic covers. The two fiction pieces which appear are brief, but nice. One is the old Thanksgiving executioner story; the other a science-fiction seriocomedy.

Also within is a spiel by Denny O'Neil (poetry, gang!) and a letter reprinted from Marvel on the use of characters and illustrations which are copyrighted by them. (Editors--take heed of the letter.)

I'd say THM is worth a quarter.

/Richard Adamson

7-UNCLE GORDON'S COMICS AND STORIES * #1 * 25¢ * offset * quarterly * 20 pages * * 8½x5½ * satire zine * saddle-stitched * Gordon Linzner, 83-10 118th Street, Apartment 4-M, Kew Gardens, New York, 11415 * mailed flat in an envelope *

It's virtually impossible to really review a zine like this. It's just too unusual!

Gordon's wit & satirical style really livens up this zine, with the help of his competant contributors. Among the short, satirical stories are some on war Nixon, God, Caesar, commercials and The Necronomicon...The Big Six(even though they speak softly!). The puns are horrible, meaning great. The writing is not the typical fan illiteracy, but much better.

Three strips, one "Tiny Turds" and two "Edgar", appear. I have run across, and written, a few bad puns in my day, but never any as bad as the one used in the first "Edgar" strip. Thanks, Gordy, you made my evening!

Ya' wanna laugh? Ya' wanna chuckle? Ya' wanna buy Uncle Gordon's C & S!!

/Rickey L. Shanklin

6-WITH PEN AND BRUSH * #6 * 25¢ * offset * bi-monthly * art zine * 4x5 * 16 pages * saddle-stitched * Spectrum Publications, 19 Richwill Road, Apartment 308, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada * mailed flat in an envelope *

This publication is simply a compilation of one-page illustrations of various artists' styles. Unfortunately, this issue seems to have hit a slump. I really can't say too much for the contents, even though the art is by such names as Sutton, Fantucchio, Stevens etc.

The cover is the redeeming factor, though. I think the cover's probably worth the quarter by itself.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

Hogarth's - Tarzan Of The Apes...

I've intentionally waited to review Tarzan Of The Apes so I could see what other reviewers had to say about the book. Well, I have seen their views,but I don't entirely agree.

Don Thompson, for example, is of the steadfast opinion that Hogarth is an untalented buffoon, and his version of Tarzan little more than a joke. I was surprised to read such remarks from someone like Don, but opinions are opinions.

Marty Greim followed up with a letter which seemed to be a much more accurate viewpoint.

As for myself, I think Hogarth's Tarzan Of The Apes is the best hardbound book dealing with comic illustrations published to date. It surpasses even the talked-about "E.C. Horror Library" because it is totally original. The concept of a man Hogarth's age being able to turn out such a masterpiece is staggering.

Hogarth's anatomy is akin to that of Michaelangelo, sometimes bordering on femininity. So? It stands to reason that a human raised with apes would have little concern with masculinity or femininity. The severely-criticized technique of showing several arms and legs to depict fluid motion follows a path trampled centuries ago by Leonardo Da Vinci.

The detailed illustrations which comprise Tarzan Of The Apes are almost too good to be true. Hogarth manages to outdo Steranko & Adams when it comes to continuity. The whole book is beautiful, with little exception. The lettering is exceptionally legible, and the use of colors is the best I've had the pleasure of viewing. The full-page scenes which are scattered intermittantly throughout the book each require several minutes to fully digest. Remarkable!

Hogarth has been out of sight pretty much for the last few years but, if this is what he's been doing, it's been a worthwhile wait.

If you don't believe me...see the book for yourself. Watson-Guptill offers a 10-day trial examination. Can you beat that?

/Rickey L. Shanklin

A TOTALLY NEW PICTORIAL VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL TARZAN NOVEL

Tarzan

OF THE APES

DRAWINGS BY BURNE HOGARTH.
TEXT BY EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS.
INTRODUCTION BY MAURICE HORN.

Tarzan is a classic among comic strips and Burne Hogarth, is an acknowledged "old master" of this uniquely American art form. Now Hogarth presents a new pictorial version of the Edgar Rice Burroughs' novel—the book that inspired the original comic strip which first appeared in the newspapers a generation ago—completely redrawn for the pages of this handsome volume. Hogarth's full color drawings and Burroughs' captions and dialogue—distilled from the novel to retain the turn-of-the-century charm of the original text—begins with the sea voyage of Lord and Lady Greystoke on a secret mission to Africa. Set ashore in the wilds by a mutinous crew, the resourceful but doomed couple survive just long enough for Lady Greystoke to bear a son—the future Lord of the Jungle. Adopted and raised by a tribe of giant anthropoid apes, the infant Tarzan grows from a vulnerable babe to a slayer of savage beasts and becomes leader of his tribe. The violent and suspenseful chronicle of Tarzan's growth to manhood among the terrors of the jungle makes a vivid pictorial story for all who love the art of the comic strip. In the past decade, the international art world has "discovered" the comic strip as a significant contemporary art form. In his introduction to the new *Tarzan,* Maurice Horn, author of the authoritative *A History of the Comic Strip,* documents the worldwide influence of Burne Hogarth, whom French critics have called the "Michelangelo of the comic strip."

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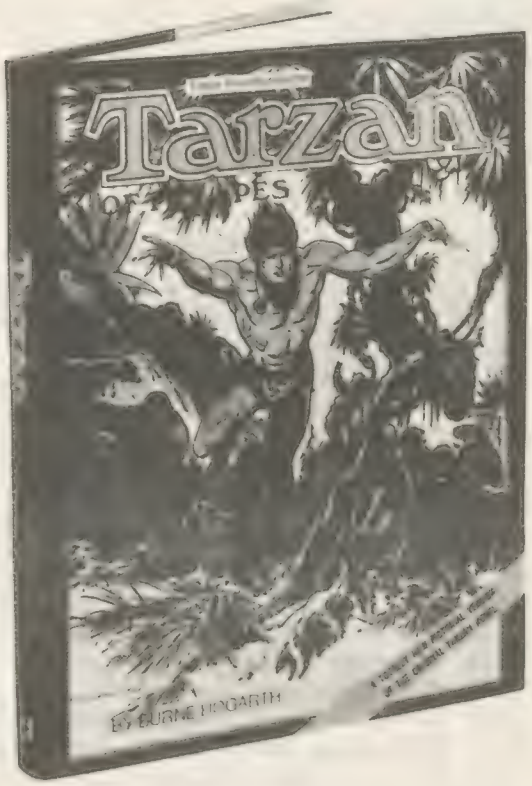

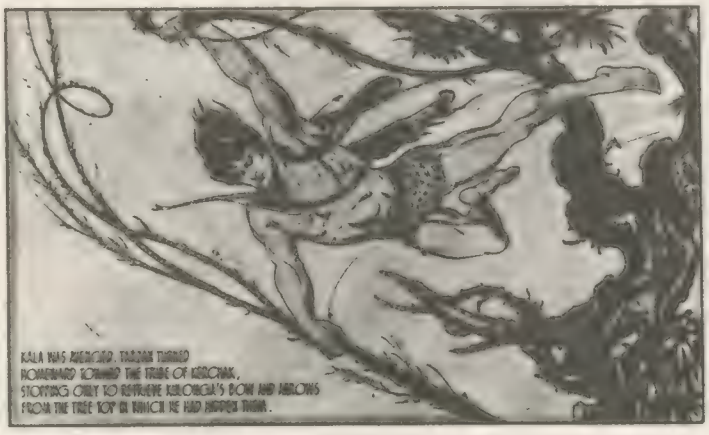

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INTERVIEW: spotlighting...

Robert Macintyre,

Canadian Artist Extraordinaire!

(BASED ON A QUESTIONNAIRE SUPPLIED BY)
(ME, ROBERT MACINTYRE--ALIAS MAC-AN-T)
(-SAOIR--HAS INTERVIEWED HIMSELF FOR)
(ALTERNATIVES, WITH A LITTLE HELP OF)
(HIS FRIENDS: RICH, TOM, AND JEFF....)
( )
( )

SELF-CONSCIENCE: When were you born?
ROBERT MACINTYRE: March 15th, 1951...11:15 a.m. EST..Toronto.
S-C: Would you care to express your views on some relevant subjects?
MAC: I'm not sure...such as?
S-C: The Vietnam war...
MAC: You mean "rape", don't you?
S-C: Whatever...
MAC: I can't say anything that isn't already obvious about that situation.
S-C: Well, how about the United States?
MAC: It's a fucking leech.
S-C: You aren't going to elaborate on that?
MAC: You know what a leech is?
S-C: Yes.
MAC: Well, then?
S-C: Uhh, how about U. S. - Canada relations?
MAC: I hope they deteriorate to the point where the U.S. will want to treat us the way they have Red China, Cuba, and Russia.
S-C: Why?
MAC: Would you let a bloodsucker convince you it's doing you a favor by treating your people like shit and stealing all your natural resources in exchange for a rather dubious "higher" standard of living?
S-C: You mean you don't want American culture in Canada?
MAC: That's right.
S-C: You feel the same way about U.S. comics and fanzines?
MAC: I wouldn't really miss them.
S-C: Well, what about the rest of the people in Canada who like American comics?
MAC: Tough shit! If they want to read comics, then they can start a Canadian company. There's just as many artists (of equivalent talent) here as in the States.
S-C: Since we're talking about Canada, what do you think of Canadian fandom?
MAC: Chickenshit. All they do is look south and repeat every rumour they hear (or invent) about some lousy American comic.
S-C: You think so lowly of comic art?
MAC: Not necessarily the art. It's the commercial industry I hate. They put out comics for money and that's it. If there's a way they can push sales they'll exploit it. Whether it means appealing to a fan's intelligence (Stan Lee's soapbox) or hiring Adams to do covers.

S-C: What about fanzines?
MAC: 90% ego...10% dad's money.
S-C: You don't think much of fan editors?
MAC: No, I don't. Most are like their parents--cocksucking parasites.
S-C: Do you see any use in fanzines?
MAC: Only that they give some artists a name while they're starting out. That is good, but I wonder whether those up-and-coming artists get their breaks because they're good...or because they had important connections.
S-C: I take it you don't really consider yourself a fan artist?
MAC: No, I don't. I don't see why any artist would want to be referred to as a "fan" artist. Either you're interested in art, and creating art, (in whatever form it may take) or you're a fan who's dying for more of his particular brand of trash.
S-C: Well, then why has some of your art been printed in a few fanzines?
MAC: I need the exposure.
S-C: Isn't that hypocritical?
MAC: A question of morality. I have none except a sense of justice. Fan editors want free art and they can fuck off; Pozner tried to pressure me into contributing art to his zine. I sent him some dated material which, although not up to my present standards, is considerably better than the junk he uses by Romita, Cockrum, Janson and numerous sketches by well-known pros. I'm not going to let some jerk think he can get away with that kind of a snow job.

S-C: I see.
MAC: I hope so.
S-C: Well, then what prompted you to emerge into fandom?
MAC: I didn't emerge into fandom. Fandom exists only in your mind. You discovered me. I made no attempt to enter fandom or take on its pretensions.
S-C: Pretensions?
MAC: The attitude most fans have. Craziness, immature maturity syndrome, bullshit like that. Practically every fan or neo-fan is a walking (or possibly crippled) cliche'.
S-C: What do you have against comic fans?
MAC: That they're just like the rest of society and think they're so bloody special. Don't worry--I hate everybody equally!
S-C: Other than this "alienation-toward-society" kink of yours, are there any other special attributes of your character?
MAC: Plenty, but they aren't any of your business.
S-C: Have you any special goals?
MAC: To be a painter, a writer, and to see the world undergo an overhaul.
S-C: Speaking of writing, have you written anything lately?
MAC: Just this interview.
S-C: Thanks a lot.
MAC: Now who's the hypocrite?

(clomp, clomp, clomp, clomp.....footsteps upon the stairs)

RICH MACDONALD: What th' fug is going on down here?
TOM ROBE: We're interviewing Rob.
RICH MACDONALD: Oh, yeah. Who for?
JEFF MORGAN: Some clown in the states.

RICH MACDONALD: Ohh.
JEFF MORGAN: Would you like to say something?
RICH MACDONALD: No.
JEFF MORGAN: Well, sir, how do you feel about Rob Macintyre's art?
RICH MACDONALD: Shit! Hey, what's this?...how old are you...single or married ...have you had any homosexu...
S-C: Hey! Come on! Be serious!
MAC: Oh, okay.
S-C: What sort of stories have you written?
MAC: Surreal, sword & sorcery, that sort of thing. They'll be published some day after I've re-written them.
S-C: Did any of your illustrations come from your stories?
MAC: Yes, all the early illoes used in the first folio(the ones dated '69 & '70 were for a novel I wrote called "Nwärgërön". It was a sword & sorcery type but was not the usual type of S&S as it involved politics and morality and deals with people more than with people being flung into exciting unworldy adventure ((though it did have this element))).
S-C: You speak of it in the past tense.
MAC: I scrapped it.
S-C: Why?
MAC: It had too much war in it and massacres—just like the history of the U.S. so I decided to junk it and try writing my way around most of the battles. However I've been too busy drawing to work seriously at it.
S-C: You intend to finish it, though?
MAC: That's right...someday.
S-C: What are your plans for the immediate future?
MAC: To move the second folio as quickly as possible so I can afford a third folio.
S-C: Will the third one have a specific theme?
MAC: No, none at all. It will have a much wider scope than the second folio which dealt basically with beauty. "Dig Your Own Grave" is a conglomeration of styles and ideas, but is mainly morbid. The third one will be called "The Arrows Of Chaos". At least a quarter of the drawings will be of a sword & sorcery nature. The rest will be original ideas which can only be classed as symbolic or surrealistic horror, and of course a sprinkling of women and portraits. Actually, I suppose it will have a theme--that of chaos, but then the same can be said of all my art.
S-C: Would you like to close with any special comment or suggestions?
MAC: Don't tempt me.
S-C: Well, I guess that closes our interview.
MAC: Yeah, I guess so.

* finis *

CHECKLIST:

Regarding the checklist presented on the following page:

*JAM...Sir John A. Macdonald Collegiate Institute (a high school in Scarborough—a borough of Toronto). "JAM" is the name of the school's yearbook.

*MOUTH...a magazine which was put out by several students of the Sir John A. Macdonald Collegiate Institute.

*DIG YOUR OWN GRAVE...for individual dates of illustration, refer to the sheet accompanying the portfolio.

*CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT...for individual dates of illustration, refer to the sheet accompanying the portfolio.

NOTE: The school is split into several houses or "clans", being a Scottish-Irish community. All the JAM frontispieces were for the various clan names such as: Clanranald, Skye, Glengarry, etcetera.

1.) Skye frontispiece for *JAM yearbook '68-'69; drawn Christmas 1968; published summer 1969.

2.) Jam frontispiece for JAM yearbook '69-'70; drawn summer 1969; published summer 1970.

3.) Alister frontispiece for JAM yearbook '69-'70; drawn summer 1969; published summer 1970.

4.) Dougall frontispiece for JAM yearbook '69-'70; drawn summer 1969; published summer 1970.

5.) Glengarry frontispiece for JAM yearbook '69-'70; drawn summer 1969; published summer 1970.

6.) Murdoch frontispiece for JAM yearbook '69-'70; drawn summer 1969; published summer 1970.

7.) Clanranald frontispiece for JAM yearbook '69-'70; drawn summer 1967; published summer 1970.

8.) Skye frontispiece for JAM yearbook '69-'70; drawn summer 1969; published summer 1970.

9.) Christmas, but...(private Christmas card); drawn Christmas 1969; printed privately for free distribution in December 1969.

10.) The Nwargeron prints (includes six illustrations, four of which were published in "Dig Your Own Grave", and five maps); drawn in the fall and winter of 1969; printed privately for free distribution in spring 1970.

11.) Headman's Block; drawn January 1970; published in *Mouth vol. 1 #3.

12.) Sympathy For The Devil; drawn spring 1970; published in Mouth vol. 1 #4.

13.) Il Duce; drawn April 1970; printed privately and distributed free in anti-election campaign at J. A. Macdonald.

14.) Vampyr; drawn March 1971; published in Mouth vol. 2 #3 (included Vampyr heading.)

15.) Aristides/ Mac-An-T-Saoir postcard-prints; five illustrations printed in spring 1971 for private distribution.

16.) Dig Your Own Grave; 21 illustrations; printed in January 1972.*

17.) The Apes (pencilled by Tom Robe); drawn in December 1971; used in Cosmicon ads and in Cosmicon program booklet; edited version later printed in Comic & Crypt #6.

18.) Morrison; drawn November 1971; used in Cosmicon ads & Cosmicon progress report.

19.) Woman on The Steps; drawn December 1971; used in Cosmicon program booklet.

20.) Cocaine Eyes; drawn in March 1972; printed in April 1972.

21.) Death Of Atlantis 1; drawn December 1971; published in Comic & Crypt #6.

22.) Monolith; drawn September 1971; printed <u>without</u> permission in Fright & Fantasy #2.

23.) Children Of The Night; 21 illustrations; printed September 1972.*

24.) Statuesque; drawn October 1971; printed in "Dig Your Own Grave" 1972; reprinted, with permission, for cover of ALTERNATIVES #5, December 1972.

...By & About The Artist:

BACKGROUND..." I copied various comic book characters since 5th grade(1961). I had no real tastes, I'd copy anything from Schulz to Kubert. In the 9th grade (1965/first year of high school) I took things more seriously, and copied mainly Steve Ditko, Gene Colan, and Frank Frazetta. By copying, I mean I more-or-less forged a picture. In early 1970 I discovered Virgil Finlay. A great change ensued, and a year and a half later I emerged with a style of my own that employs the techniques of Finlay."

" I worked with Chris Pappas from March 1970 to February 1971 when we had our differences, partially in style but mainly in a clash of personalities, and headed down different roads."

" Sometime in late 1968 I started writing fantasy, and did so until February of 1971, at which time I decided to devote myself to drawing."

" I have had no training in schools other than the art classes everybody has to attend in public school."

TECHNIQUE..." I use a koh-i-noor rapidograph,highart board or hutone scratch board,and a lot of time. I think the results speak for themselves."

" I occasionally swipe figures from other artists,but never ideas or layouts--otherwise I give them credit for the idea. I use models always--relying on photographs for nine out of ten figures."

COMMENTS...." When you think of Canada, you shouldn't think of England. You should think of Scotland and Ireland because this is where all of the nasty Scots and Irish ended up after they got slaughtered in battles like Culloden. Do you realize that the English and lowland Scots thought of the highland Scots as savages just as the first "Americans" thought of the Indians as savages???"

Mac Wilson

MAC-AN-T-SAOIR

No doubt this is one of the productions which will be overlooked by many. No doubt they will regret it. From a printing standpoint, this series of works has the most flawless reproduction I have ever seen. I really cannot believe my eyes on some of the material. But, lest I become overly redundant, I would now like to present to you...MAC-AN-T-SAOIR.....

9-COCAINE EYES...an 18x24 mushroom fantasy poster printed on heavy semi-gloss stock. An exceptionally beautiful scene.....$1.50

9-DIG YOUR OWN GRAVE...is an out-of-print portfolio of 20 individual 8½x11 illustrations on excellent stock. If enough of a demand is noted, a second printing will be made.....$2.50
(That boils down to 12½¢ for each "poster"...beat it!)
An individual critique of each print follows.....

Vampyr...envelope illustration...not your heroic vampire, by any means.
1.) Nwargeron...strange, but detailed, barbarian standing on "air-island".
2.) In Sorkas...panther-man is appearing in mid-air, gesturing to flying pteradactyl/tyrannasaurus rex. (very Kenneth Smith-ish!)
3.) Apotheosis...one warrior & seven awe-stricken women. Interesting, indeed.
4.) Blu...woman walking out of a corridor, with a panther.
5.) Trask and Kwala...woman in cave with mountain lion. Nice shading.
6.) Rotellas...bizarre Jeckyll-Hyde split scene between man & savage.
7.) River and Sky...man rising from water. Excellent use of contrast.
8.) Hendrix I...Jimi, facial illustration, hair askew. A fine tribute.
9.) Hendrix II...with headband & guitar. A finer tribute; very moving.
10.)Brinks' Edge...One of the best illustrations. A panoramic scene of cosmic forces unleashed by a demon at the abyss's edge. Wild.
11.)Monolith...Symbolic. Two angels fall, while two lie already bleeding.
12.)Statuesque...a beautiful woman, a skeleton, and a wizard. Bewitching.
13.)Star-Spangled Stud...a parody men's-mag cover, replete with nude & blurbs.
14.)Peter Townsend...of the Who. Very detailed illustration.
15.)Morrison...great! One of my favorite singers/poets/masters. The artist has managed to capture the essence of Morrison within.
16.)Freefall...a man, clinging to a falling rock; skull mirage in background.
17.)The Oak...Man, symbolized as an oak, with a Freudian phallic symbol.
18.)One Day At The Lake...picture from ad. Swamp monster advancing on girl.
19.)Patrick McGoohan...surrealistic representation of the man and his roles.
20.)Robert Macintyre...demoniacal self-portrait of the artist himself!

NOTE: In order to identify the prints, you will need these lists. Otherwise you can spend 20 minutes sorting them since they aren't numbered or titled.

9-CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT...another portfolio of 20 prints, still available. This one contains much finer illustrations and printing, & is on 9x12 stock.....$3.50
(That's 17½¢ per print.....but worth it!!)

Deathknell...envelope illustration...several skulls around a bell.
1.) Leanna...(with apologies to Bode' & Frazetta) a beautiful collage of pteradactyls, spiders, castles and dinosaurs with not-so-subtle Frazetta overtones...and several Bode'-ish lizards!
2.) "Yes, Now You Too Can Own A Piece Of Canada!"...tricky Dickey pointing out while eagle swoops upon Canada. Very cute piece.
3.) Woman On The Steps...nice illustration of a woman on the steps of what is obviously not the rectory of St. Frances!
4.) Woman In The Shadows...entrancing nude, printed amidst an unbroken background of absolute blackness.
5.) Dust Cloud...A similar nude, with an exception: beauty! She's the kind of woman who causes nocturnal emissions among the impotent!
6.) "If The Stars Were Yours..."...nude reaching for a star; black background.
7.) Red Cloud...a rather vague illustration of the famous indian chief.
8.) Laurel Wheeler (nee Macintyre)...portrait of the artist's sister. Nice.

9.) Black Sand...nude on darkened plain being accosted by a triad of serpents.
10.)The Lizard King...James Morrison, deep in thought, holding a boa. Lovely.
11.)Medusa...nude, reclining seductively on bed, with snakey locks. (I hope that feeling I'm getting is arthritis...) Good tonal quality.
12.)Mirrors...lovely nude, before three mirrors; serpent in background.
* 13.)Lirazel Blows Away (from The King Of Elfland's Daughter by Lord Dunsany.) ...absolutely beautiful illustration of girl in gown amidst blowing leaves.
* 14.)Mermaid...fantastic use of contrast. Girl in water; euphoric looking.
* 15.)The Unicorn...beautiful scene of unicorn bridging a dimensional barrier.
* 16.)The Sorceress...lovely sorceress doing a ballet in the stars. Very fine.
17.)Hunter's Glow...castle, on mountain, silhouetted by moon. Nudes are in the rocks below, hiding. Interesting light effects.
18.)Stevie Winwood...shot of Traffic/Blind Faith member, smiling confidently.
19.)Margot Kidder...who she? Nice candid portrait, though.
20.)Well, She's Walking Thru' The Clouds With A Circus Mind That's Running Wild Butterflies & Zebras & Moonbeams & Fairy Tales That's All She Ever Thinks About Riding With The Wind...little wing/Hendrix...I didn't title that one! ...very fine illustration of girl sitting serenly on seat in space.

Robert Macintyre shows a unique talent for working in diversified styles, while managing to be, always, himself. He looks like one of fandoms' newest sensations, combining the realism of Parrish with the impressionism of Dali, with more than a touch of the surrealism & eroticism of Fuchs. His work displays rare quality.

The four asterisked (*) numbers above are not unlike the work of Finlay. In fact, had Finlay signed them, no one would have known otherwise.

The comments, interpretations, and descriptions used herein are my own, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the artist himself.

COPIES OF MAC-AN-T-SAOIR MAY BE ORDERED FROM:

robert macintyre
c/o memory lane
594 markham street
toronto, ontario, canada

...reviewed by/Rickey L. Shanklin

Grave Diggings...

SUBJECT: THE S.F.C.A.

What began as one of fandom's greatest vehicles has turned into a hit-and-run maniac. Having taken upon themselves a sort of Godlike immunity, the S.F.C.A. sit, complacently, and do as they damn well please.

They damn well better straighten out! They depend on the continued support of fandom, and they are therefore answerable to their subscribers.

Back in the days of ALTERNATIVES' conception, a sampling of fanzines were selected and reviewed. These, collectively, comprised ALTERNATIVES #1. The issue was distributed free by mail, at conventions, and sent to the reviewed zines.

One issue after a copy was sent to the S.F.C.A., Rocket's Blast & Comic-Collector announced that they were raising "George" from the dead. Interesting... considering that they were merely attempting to capitalize on an idea I had had first. But that's not really unusual...they're old pros at it!

It is interesting to note that they "decided" to not review S.F.C.A. publications. Why bother? They already consume over 10% of RBCC in ads!

The second "coincidence" came with the proclamation that they would not review any zine that was free. A convenient way of avoiding reviews of ALTERNATIVES and THE BUYERS GUIDE, their chief competitor.

ALTERNATIVES #'s 2 & 3 were sent to "Critique" for review. #3 was recently reviewed...a month after #4 came out! #2 was never reviewed! Obviously they pick and choose what they want to review.

The reviews themselves are usually decent, but occasionally they become petty enough to state that "they have a better product" than the reviewed item.

Since The Buyers Guide is no longer free, I presume the S.F.C.A. will forget to review it...like ALTERNATIVES. I wonder how many free zines they've received to date that they neglected to review. Think about it!

Books...

4-Dr. PHIBES * Award Books * by William Goldstein * 152 pages *

Lights, cameras, and a lot of confusing action! Goldstein, one of the men who wrote the original Phibes screenplay has managed to come up with a bewildering mixture of gore, low humor, and muldane overwriting that boggles the imagination.

In the course of the story, long stretches of narrative are interrupted by murders...which are interrupted by stage instructions. I swear—stage instructions! This has to be the first novel in history that could be used as a working script for a movie. Even the back cover of the book manages to read like a high school composition...and a failing one at that. On the other hand,it does convey the general idea of the story which is a much better remembrance than a handful of stills reprinted in Famous Monsters of Filmland.

/Sandra Chaney

9-THE PHANTOM: SLAVE MARKET OF MUCAR * #2 * by Lee Falk * Avon Books * 75¢ *

Yes sir, the Phantom is a new series, and a darn good one at that!

The quality is far above any of the other text adaptations of comic heroes. (Avengers, Green Hornet, Captain America, etc.) From the fantastic cover...to the ironic ending...it will hold your interest as you share the adventures of the ghost who walks. He's at his peak, fighting his sworn enemies...slavers!! Yes, the slave market is alive again, but not for long once the Phantom gets wind of it.

Following a trail from a crooked prison, to a corrupt city, the Phantom has shown a brutal side to his personality not seen before. This fast-paced book definitely proves Lee Falk's hero will be around a long time.

/Arthur Phillips

6-INTERPLANETARY HUNTER * illustrated * by Arthur K. Barnes * 249 pages * 95¢ * * Ace Books * paperback *

Well, male chauvinism is alive and living at Ace Books. The cover on their new book, "Interplanetary Hunter", depicts two armed men crossing alien terrain while, on the back, the blurb talks about Mr. Strike & Gerry Carlyle, or Mr. Quade and Carlyle. Well, for Christ's sake, Gerry Carlyle is the hero.....and he's a girl!

Gerry is the interplanetary hunter, the leader, and the one with brains,experience, skill, intestinal fortitude and mammary ampleness. Yet, Ace chooses to ignore this and play up the "man" in their ads. Perhaps a moral therein...

About the book itself: this is another reprint of obscure pulp material, & the five stories in the book cannot be called top-notch science fiction....because there are two many errors in the stories. To be blunt, Mr. Barnes just doesn't know science. The stories are written smoothly, however, and are certainly interesting. If you'd like to try something light this month...try Interplanetary Hunter.

/Arthur Phillips

Portfolio...

4-FRANK FRAZETTA PORTFOLIO ONE * $3.50 * 15x11 * seven prints * Middle Earth, 823 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado, 80218 *

If you've seen the ad for this portfolio, you've seen one of the seven art prints which are contained within but, in all honesty, to call this "art" would bring an all-time low to the word. I had looked forward to giving this folio a decent review...then I looked at the folio! This is the Frazetta you never knew: Frazetta at his worst! Charging somebody $3.50 for this folio is about like charging somebody $3.50 to see a rare gem collection...and showing them the gravel in your driveway! All right, maybe two of the seven aren't that bad ...but when you're paying $3.50 for them, they're bad! I really can't say much about this folio except: it's Frazetta. That, folks, is its sole justification for ever having been printed...and a feeble one at that! If you're a Frazetta fan, my criticisms are falling on deaf ears, because you'll buy it anyway. If you're not...don't! The Severin folio looks like it might be a better buy...

/Richard Adamson

Double-Takes...

SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS CREATED BY RAY HARRYHAUSEN as reported last issue was in error. I mistakenly typed #1 instead of #3. #3 is sold out anyway, and now #4 is available from: Talos Publications, 3030 Ellen Street, Irving, Texas, 75062. Price, as far as I know, is a buck.

.....

A new TV series is in the works: SPACE ODYSSEY. More word in a later issue.

.....

The plans for THE SPIRIT MAGAZINE are done. It won't be. I hear somebody is reprinting the Eisner Sunday pages, so I'll have definite word next time around.

.....

A "petition" is being raised against Alan Light. It is requested that everyone write a letter of complaint concerning the screwed-up mail delivery. All letters should be mailed on January 11th, and should bear the logo: TBG ON TIME! above the return address. With a little luck, and a lot of cooperation, we might get things straight.

.....

For Sale...

HARDBACKS...75¢ each plus 25¢ postage per order.
All are mint, with dust jackets, except last one.

OCTOBER THE FIRST IS TOO LATE / fred hoyle PSYCHOGEIST / l. p. davies
THE DEMON BREED / james h. schmitz A SPECTER IS HAUNTING TEXAS / fritz leiber
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